
ALTERED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS/BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS

PRIORITIES

ABC's

Determine possible etiology

Determine degree of physiological distress

Patient, rescue and scene safety

FIELD ASSESSMENT/TREATMENT INDICATIONS

1. Assess for suspected narcotic overdose, hypoglycemia, traumatic injury, shock
2. Transportation for patients with unmanageable airway, deteriorating vital signs or increasing neurological deficits to appropriate receiving hospital
3. Patient exhibits inappropriate behavior

PARAMEDIC SUPPORT PRIOR TO BASE HOSPITAL CONTACT

1. Maintain airway with appropriate adjuncts. Consider placing patient in left lateral position if altered gag reflex and have suction available
2. Oxygen therapy as clinically indicated, obtain oxygen saturation prior to administration of oxygen if not detrimental to patient condition. Be prepared to support ventilations. Endotracheal intubation may be contraindicated for patients that are known diabetics or narcotic overdoses prior to Narcan or Dextrose administration.
3. Place on Cardiac monitor, if indicated.
4. Obtain vascular access if possible. Consider shock protocol. Reference #5003
5. Determine blood glucose, If indicated, give Dextrose 50%, 25 Grams (50ml) IV for adults.
For Pediatric patients give 1ml/kg IV.
6. Glucagon 1mg IM/SC, if unable to establish IV, may give one time only. Pediatric dose 0.025mg/kg IM may be repeated 1 time after 20 minutes for a combined maximum dose of 1mg,
7. Narcan 2.0mg IV/IM for adults with suspected narcotic overdose. For Pediatric patients give 0.01mg/kg IV or 0.025mg/kg IM/SC if unable to establish IV. May repeat dose in 20 minutes if total combined dose does not exceed 1mg.
8. Bring samples of drugs, plants, medications or other causative agents, unless there is a possibility of crew contamination.

BASE HOSPITAL MAY ORDER THE FOLLOWING:

- *1. Repeat 25 Grams (50ml) of Dextrose 50% IV for adult patient if no response to initial therapy. Repeat blood glucose prior to second dose of Dextrose.
- *2. Repeat Narcan 2.0mg IV (Pediatric dose - .1mg/kg) may be repeated every 2-3 minutes if no response to initial therapy.